

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00

PC-01 /078 W

-----079105 152257Z /62

P 152222Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5740

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5981

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SHUM, PE

SUBJECT: APRA RESPONSE TO JULY 19 STRIKE PLANS

REF: LIMA 5935

1. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CTP (APRA) LABOR CONFEDERATION TOLD PRESS JULY 15 THAT IT WAS ISSUING AN INVITATION TO OTHER LABOR GROUPS (MOSCOW-LINE CGTP, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC CNT, FAR-LEFTIST UNIONS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY CONFEDERATION) TO MEET IN A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES AS LABOR STABILITY AND THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION. A HIGH OFFICIAL IN THE APRA PARTY TOLD EMBOFF JULY 15 THAT SUCH A CONFERENCE IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE AND THE INVITATION IS MERELY

A MEANS FOR THE CTP TO HOLD A MIDDLE POSITION (NEITHER CONDEMNING NOR SUPPORTING COMMUNIST ORCHESTRATED STRIKE). THE APRA CTP OFFICIAL POSITION DURING THE STRIKE IF IT OCCURS WILL BE THAT IT IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DEMANDS AND GRIEVANCES VOICED BY THE STRIKERS BUT THAT THE "CONSTRUCTTIVE" APPROACH IS TO "DEMAND" THAT THE GOVERNMENT COME TO THE BARGAINING TABLE AND NEGOTIATE WITH THE LABOR UNIONS TO SOLVE THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS. THE CTP WILL EMPHASIZE THAT THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE STRIKE AND STRIKE-CONNECTED VIOLENCE BUT IT WILL NOT CONDEMN THE STRIKE PER SE.

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2. THE APRA OFFICIAL ADMITTED THAT APRA RANK AND FILE WILL PROBABLY JOIN THE STRIKE AND, AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE CTP LEADERSHIP FACES A VERY "DELICATE" PROBLEM. APRA NEITHER WANTS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNISTS NOR BE PREMPTED BY THEM.

3. FLYERS ANNOUNCING THE JULY 19 STRIKE ARE CIRCUCLATING AROUND LIMA AND CONTAIN A PLATFORM DEMANDING SALARY INCREASES, FREEZING OF PRICES FOR STAPLES, LIFTING OF THE YEAR-OLD NATIONWIDE "STATE OF EMERGENCY", WHICH PROHIBITS ALL STRIKES AS ILLEGAL, AND GOP RESOLUTION SIMILAR POLITICAL/ECONOMIC ISSUES. THE FLYER IS SIGNED BY THE CGTP, CNT, CTRP (ORIGINALLY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED, NOW TO THE LEFT OF THE GOP), AND A DOZEN INDIVIDUAL UNIONS INCLUDING TEACHERS, BANK EMPLOYEES, AND MINE WORKERS. THESE LAST THREE UNIONS WILL BE THE VANGUARD OF THE STRIKE. THE APRA OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE BANK WORKERS, IN PARTICULAR, WERE CRUCIAL IF THE STRIKE WAS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

4. COMMENT: APRA IS INDEED IN A DIFFICULT POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE JULY 19 STRIKE. IF THEY SUPPORT IT, THEY BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT WILL COME DOWN ON THEM HARD. (THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE SECURITY FORCES ARE PREPARED TO TAKE A HARD LINE ON DISORDER). IF THEY DO NOT SUPPORT IT, THEY FEAR THEY WILL LOSE RANK AND FILE MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNIST UNIONS. APRA WILL TRY TO TAKE THE MIDDLE ROAD SUPPORTING THE AIMS OF THE STRIKE BUT NOT THE STRIKE ITSELF, WHICH COULD ALIENATE BOTH THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND THE GOP.  
SHLAUDEMAM

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## Message Attributes

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